

NEWS RELEASE

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President Bush Appoints Rodger A. Heaton as U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois

Springfield, IL – President George W. Bush has signed Rodger A. Heaton's commission as United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. President Bush signed the commission on October 4, 2006, following the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Mr. Heaton's nomination on September 29, 2006. Mr. Heaton has been serving as U.S. Attorney since December 1, 2005, when he was appointed by the U.S. Attorney General.

Mr. Heaton stated, "It is a privilege to serve as the United States Attorney and to work with the outstanding men and women in this office. We will dedicate our efforts to pursue justice through vigorous, ethical and impartial enforcement of the laws of the United States. I am grateful for the opportunity the President has provided me, and the Senate's confirmation of the nomination."

As U.S. Attorney, Mr. Heaton is the chief federal law enforcement official in the Central District of Illinois which has jurisdiction over federal crimes committed in any of the district's 46 counties. The office has its headquarters in Springfield with staffed branch offices in Urbana, Peoria, and Rock Island, and is responsible for prosecuting a broad range of federal crimes, including bank fraud, public corruption and tax evasion to firearm offenses, drug trafficking, bank robbery and child pornography. The office also represents the United States, its agencies and employees, in civil suits brought against or on behalf of the United States in the Central District.

Mr. Heaton, age 47, began his career as a federal prosecutor in Indianapolis in 1989 before transferring to the U.S. Attorney's office in the Central District of Illinois, where he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney from July 1990 until December 2000. From January 2001 to April 2003, Mr. Heaton was a Litigation Partner at Kirkland & Ellis, Chicago. He returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office in May 2003 as Chief of the Civil Division.

Mr. Heaton has held a number of supervisory positions within the U.S. Attorney's Office, including supervisor of the Springfield office, Chief of the district's Appellate Division, and most recently as Chief of the Civil Division where he supervises the district's civil court matters including, among other matters, health care fraud litigation, employment discrimination, enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, environmental issues, bankruptcy, and collections. He has prosecuted numerous complex criminal cases involving bribery, tax evasion, narcotics and weapons offenses, price-fixing, money laundering and fraud. As Chief of the Appellate Division, Heaton argued more than 60 cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

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Heaton was also selected for assignment as an Associate Independent Counsel with the Office of Independent Counsel from September 1997 until July 1998 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Washington, D.C. In that capacity, Heaton handled the tax evasion prosecution of former Governor Jim Guy Tucker and two business associates. He also supervised the preparation of briefs and oral argument on several complex constitutional, statutory, and common law issues in all levels of the federal court system including in the Supreme Court. In October 1998, Mr. Heaton received the Department of Justice's Director's Award.

In addition to his professional duties, Mr. Heaton has been an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois College of Law where he taught courses in white collar crime. From 1995 to 1999, he also served as a member of the school board in Rochester, Illinois.

Mr. Heaton, a native of central Illinois, received a B.S. degree from the University of Illinois- Urbana, Champaign in 1981, and a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the Indiana University School of Law in 1985. Heaton is married and the father of four children.

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